

ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION NEWS

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P.O. BOX 1419 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02840

November, 1985

No. 1

FIRST REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, November 21, which is the date of the first general meeting of our organization. The meeting will be held at 7:30 pm at Newport City Hall in the Council Chambers. With a new organization such as ours, this meeting is particularly important, and it is hoped that all members will be present (or represented by proxy). Included in the agenda for this first meeting are:

- Election of six persons from the general membership to the Board of Directors. (Please call Sid Gorham at 846-2340 to volunteer for the Board.)
- Financial Report
- Proposed Fund-raising Programs
- Proposed Lighthouse Rehabilitation Program
- Proposed Volunteer Program

Members not able to attend the meeting who desire a proxy should call our Secretary, Charlotte Johnson at 847-4454.

MEMBER-INTRO PARTY A GOOD START

Hopefully, with all of the many ups and downs experienced during the past 18 months now behind us, the fine turnout by members and their guests (over 100 persons attended) at our wine and cheese party at the Clarke Cooke House on October 24th will be typical of things to come.

Firstly, the party was great, and among those attending were the grandchildren of Charles S. Curtis, lightkeeper at Rose Island Lighthouse from 1880 to 1918: Wanton Chase and Christina Perrotta of Newport, and Mabel Moran of South Dartmouth, MA. Also joining us were Walter Johansen and his wife from Warwick. His father was an assistant lightkeeper under Mr. Curtis.

Secondly, as of the night of our party, we had grown to 100 memberships as follows:

- 40 Single memberships
- 50 Family memberships
- 9 Business memberships
- 1 Contributing membership

Also, during the evening a lot of interest in our program was always evident, old friendships were renewed, new friendships were made, and everybody present enjoyed the setting with its wine and cheese tables.

A special thanks to David Ray for the use of the Clarke Cooke House with the fine support shown by his staff, and to our Secretary, Charlotte Johnson, for putting the party together (including her great selection of cheeses).

JANUARY PICNIC SLATED

No, we weren't kidding last July when we promised a picnic on Rose Island in January! Here are the ingredients for a fabulous outing:

- A bright, sunny day with the wind out of the North. This shelters the South beach by the lighthouse.
- Transportation provided by Oldport Marine Services.
- A bunch of people with warm clothes, adventurous spirits and picnic baskets full of goodies to eat and to share.

We'll plan to leave from Oldport at 10:00 am to be back around 4:00, so start looking for that special day beginning the FIRST of January. A contribution of \$10 will hold your reservation. Call Charlotte Johnson for more info and to save a place 847-4454.

REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER, 7:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE !!

FUNDRAISING PROGRAM UNDERWAY -
LIGHTHOUSE FOR SALE

Bit by bit and piece by piece, that is. Our fundraising goal is \$40,000 to restore the lighthouse building. To allow more people to literally get a piece of the action the lighthouse is for sale by the shingle, by the brick, or you could buy part of the roof, a door or the whole tower! (Only one tower will be sold, however!)

And, Yes, you can pick the window, the door, etc. that you want to own. WHAT'S THE CATCH? You have to agree to leave it in place, that's all.

If you're thinking about a Christmas present for the person who has everything, why not consider a piece of the lighthouse? Imagine how proud someone would feel to be able to say, "See that beautiful lighthouse? I own a piece of it and helped restore it."

Prices are as follows:

-Shingles	\$ 25.00 each
-Bricks	50.00 each
-Roof (50 sq.ft.)	250.00/square
-Window	500.00 each
-Door	700.00 each
-Tower	3,000.00 one only

Call any member of the Lighthouse Interim Executive Committee to purchase the piece or pieces of your choice.

THE LIGHT MUST BE KEPT BURNING

That's the title of the exhibit of Rhode Island's lighthouses which will be installed from November 17 until January 17 at The Museum of Rhode Island History at Aldrich House, 110 Benevolent Street, Providence.

November 17 at 2:00 pm, George Landow, professor of English and art history at Brown University; Carol Bell, Rhode Island folklorist; and Wick York, architectural historian will examine various historical, aesthetic and cultural aspects of the state's lighthouse system.

REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIPS

It is through our membership list that you are kept informed of the activities of our organization. If you have not already joined, won't you please consider joining us now so we can keep your name on our list? We've had a terrific return from our first mailing and are grateful for the support of so many people who are interested in the preservation of this wonderful symbol of our heritage.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS BENEFIT LIGHTHOUSE

Besides buying pieces of the lighthouse for Christmas gifts, a number of other gift suggestions might appeal to you:

-Melinda Callan has designed a counted cross-stitch kit of the Rose Island Lighthouse, which is for sale at Newport Needleworks, Ltd. at 39 Touro Street on Washington Square. Newport Needleworks will donate \$5 to the Lighthouse Restoration Fund for each kit sold at \$15.00.

-Newport Collaborative Architects have made up a number of prints of the lighthouse elevations from the West and South on gray paper. These are hand colored and are framed by Arnold Art Store at 210 Thames St., where they are on sale at \$75.00 ea. Arnolds will donate \$40 to the lighthouse for each print that is sold.

So we hope you will consider these gifts when doing your Christmas shopping. We are very grateful for the support of these local businesses.

LIGHTHOUSE WISH LIST

As long as we're on the subject of Christmas, we've put together a wish list of things the lighthouse needs. It may be that you have what we need kicking around in your basement, OR you may know of someone who may have what we need, OR you may know of someone who can get it for us at the proverbial "wholesale Price."

-To make use of the scrap lumber, driftwood, etc. that could heat the lighthouse, we need a gas-powered chain saw.

-For lighting, we'll be using the mantle-type Coleman lanterns and kerosene lamps.

-To aid us in the clean out process we need at least a dozen 5-gallon plastic buckets to carry debris.

On the "Wish we could borrow" list:

-a gas-powered shrub and weed whacker to clear the rather thick underbrush.

SPECIAL THANKS

In the "above and beyond the call of duty" category, Ron Ackman of Oldport Marine Services has done more than bend over backwards to help us. We offer a special thanks to him for the help from his staff and for the use of his equipment in getting us out to Rose Island.

RILF INTERIM BOARD

Curt Bunting, President	846-4198
Bruce Bartlett, V. Pres.	846-9600
Charlotte Johnson, Sec'ty	847-4454

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P.O. BOX 1419 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02840

June, 1986

No. 2

FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION

The first general meeting of the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation was held on the evening of November 21, 1985, at the Newport City Hall. In addition to updates on our financial and membership drives, the agenda for this meeting included a progress report on our rehabilitation plan to be submitted to the Department of the Interior by architect Glenn Gardiner of the firm Newport Collaborative, and the election of six directors from the general membership.

Elected for one-year terms were: Larry Allen of Middletown, Curt Bunting, Gary Esposito, John Howard and Dana Magee of Newport, and Neil Fox of Warwick. Neil is a former Coast Guard'sman who was stationed at the Rose Island Lighthouse in the mid 1950's. We welcome them aboard!

Other members of the Board of Directors who are appointed or elected by the Newport City Council, the Newport City Manager or by one of the Founding Organizations include:

Al Angel - Newport Taxpayer's Association
Bruce Bartlett - Staff, City of Newport
Tom Benson - Newport Museum of Yachting
Vic Farmer - Friends of the Waterfront
Brenda Gordon - Point Association
Sid Gorham - Ochre Point Association
Charlotte Johnson - Aquidneck Isl. Ecology
Pat Kirby, Jr. - Hill Association
Dr. Neil Leersson - Agissiz Beach Assoc.
William Leys - Staff, City of Newport
Charles Soliozy - Council, City of Newport
Anne Twomey - 5th Ward Improvement Assoc.

In addition to the above, vacancies currently exist with Directorships supported by Save the Bay and the Lower Thames Neighborhood Association.

The Board has since elected an Executive Committee to handle the day-to-day functions of the organization. Phone numbers are included to encourage members to stay in contact with your concerns and with your good ideas. The Executive Board is:

Curt Bunting - 846-4198
Bruce Bartlett - 846-9600
Gary Esposito - 846-9600
Charlotte Johnson - 847-4454
Sid Gorham - 846-2340

THIRD ANNUAL CLAMBAKE TO BE HELD

AT ROSE ISLAND

For the past two years as part of Save the Bay's Newport Harbor Appreciation Week, our clambake has been held at the Museum of Yachting at Fort Adams. Sponsored once again by Aquidneck Island Ecology, we'll be "roughing it" this year for the first time on our own beach at Rose Island on Friday, July 11. Tickets will cost \$15.00 per person, limited to 150 people. The deadline for reservations is Monday, July 7.

Oldport launches will take us from Fort Adams' north dock by the Museum of Yachting to our new landing floats at Rose Island between 5:00 and 5:30 pm. The return trips are scheduled between 7:30 and 8:00 pm.

We are happy that Chris Barlow will once again be our bakemaster, treating us and our tummies to what has become known as the famous "Barlow-que." The menu will include salad, rolls and butter, Barlow's unbelievably good mussels and, of course, lobster. Sodas, beer and wine will be available at a cash bar, so bring your own blanket and whatever else you'll need to round out your

(Turn to CLAMBAKE on back page)



NEW YEAR'S DAY PICNIC ON ROSE ISLAND was a great way for about 30 hearty souls to start the new year. A warmer outing is planned for our third annual clambake on the beach on Friday, July 11.

REHABILITATION REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation has a five-year program by which it plans to rehabilitate the lighthouse and its grounds. As we balance the availability of funds with the availability of volunteer labor from our highly-skilled local forces, we hope this total period will be somewhat shortened.

So that we may have an on-site custodian early in the program to provide security, the rehabilitation project has been broken down into first- and second-floor sub-projects and assigned priorities as follows: First, to install a temporary floating dock on the south beach to allow boats to land and unload passengers and gear. Second is to complete the roof repairs and make the building watertight, then we can remove the deteriorated and damaged plaster walls and ceilings and can strip the floors of layers upon layers of linoleum.

The repair of exterior shingles and window and door frames comes next, with the window and door replacement following. Electrical and plumbing systems will then be installed to allow for both AC and DC electricity from both generator and battery sources. The water will be supplied by Mother Nature and gathered from the roof into a basement cistern. Drinking water will be transported to the island. A composting toilet will take care of the keeper's kitchen and personal waste.

Insulation will next be installed and the walls, ceilings and floors finished with wood moldings, doors and cabinets. Coal-burning stoves will provide heat for both floors as well as cooking for the keeper. The second floor keeper's quarters are the highest priority and will be finished before the first floor lighthouse museum is completed.

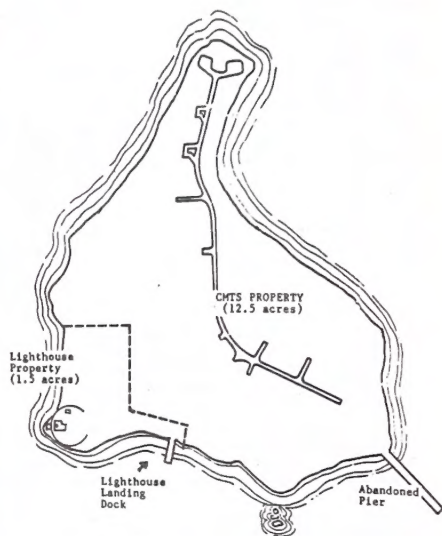
The budget for the second-floor rehab is about \$18,000 with the first floor costing \$19,000 and the exterior and tower budgeted at about \$13,000. The estimated cost to install a permanent dock and to clear the grounds of the tanks and cistern is about \$16,000. The total budget for the program then is about \$66,000 which would be doubled if it weren't for the volunteer labor factor.

At this time the interior has been sprayed with an anti-fungus agent and all pigeon and seagull droppings have been removed along with the debris from years of vandalism. The windows have been boarded up to prevent further entry of birds and a note has been left on the east door inviting people to come in to see the work in process. In asking for people's cooperation in keeping the birds out, we are happy to have found no further evidence of vandalism.

A temporary metal cover has been placed on the roof and detailed inspection and measurements have been undertaken and a rehabilitation plan with drawings has been submitted to the Department of the Interior and the R.I. Historical Preservation Commission for approval, which should be received in the very near future.

As noted earlier, much of the work will be done by volunteers. If anyone wishes to sign up to help, we hope you will use the tear-off form or give me a call to let me know. As soon as we receive approval from the Department of the Interior, the rehab work will begin in earnest as we hope to take advantage of the warm summer weather to schedule work parties on the island. For more information, please call me at 846-4198.

Curt Bunting, President



ROSE ISLAND showing both properties and the location of the Lighthouse's new landing dock scheduled to be in place by the end of June.

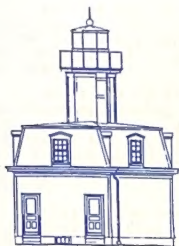
SPECIAL THANKS

Now that our restoration/renovation plans are completed and have been sent to the Department of the Interior in Philadelphia for final approval, we step back and have to acknowledge the tremendous support of Newport Collaborative architects Glenn Gardiner and Joe Delaney. Working hand in hand with our Board and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Glenn and Joe spent many hours working from old Coast Guard drawings and from actual field measurements to produce a set of plans for historical approval.

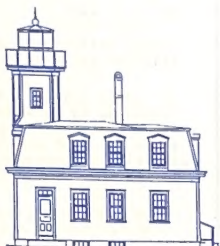
We honestly don't know where we'd be without your guiding hands...Our special thanks to Newport Collaborative!

LIGHTHOUSE FOR SALE

...Bit by bit and piece by piece, that is. Our initial goal is \$40,000 to restore the Rose Island Lighthouse and make it a basic, habitable dwelling for a Keeper who will live on the second floor. Eventually, the ground floor will house a small lighthouse museum. For your contribution towards this restoration/renovation effort, you will receive a certificate of ownership of a piece of the lighthouse. You will also receive the next four issues of the quarterly newsletter of the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation...so COME ON!! Get a piece of the action...LITERALLY!



EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

I wish to purchase the following piece(s) of the Rose Island Lighthouse to help restore the light and keep it open to the public. I agree to leave the piece(s) in place:

_____ SHINGLE at \$25.00 each	\$ _____
_____ BRICK at \$50.00 each	\$ _____
_____ ROOF (a 50 sq.ft. section) at \$250.00 each	\$ _____
_____ WINDOW at \$500.00 each (only 20 available)*	\$ _____
_____ EXTERIOR DOOR at \$700.00 (only 3 available)*	\$ _____
_____ THE TOWER at \$3,000.00 (only one available)*	\$ _____

Enclosed is my check to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation for \$ _____

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____
 Street City State Zip

Name to be written on the certificate: _____

*Subject to availability. You may choose the window or door you want by marking it on the elevation diagram above. To be sure it is still available, call the Foundation Secretary, Charlotte Johnson at (401) 847-4454.

Contributions to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purpose. Please mail your check along with this form to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 1419, Newport, R.I. 02840.

THANK YOU !!

TALL SHIPS PICNIC

On Tuesday, July 1, the Tall Ships will leave Newport Harbor for the July 4th celebrations in New York City. Of course, we realize there will be no finer vantage point than Rose Island. Therefore, we would like to invite our rough-and-ready members to bring your picnics, your blankets and join us on Rose Island for the Parade of Sail.

While the day should be a fun one for all, we would like to remind you that our renovation work is just beginning and we are in fact inviting you at your own risk to a construction site which is a mile off shore. We ask you to wear proper protective shoes and clothing and to abide by a few sensible and basic rules:

1) Don't tie up to the landing dock. A new floating landing dock will be in place for you to land and drop off passengers. Because of the nature of the dock, we can't have boats tied to it, however, it will make landing a lot easier for all but one person aboard!

2) Stay on the beaches and around the Lighthouse building. Rose Island is the home of hundreds and hundreds of birds which think the whole island is theirs. They will treat you like the intruders you are if you start exploring in the bushes. Leave your dogs at home, the birds won't like them.

3) Keep it clean. Bring a couple of extra large trash bags so you can not only take home the trash you generate, you can also help us clean up the beaches.

The bottom line: Come and have a wonderful time watching the Parade of Sail and remember to be careful and neat.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS HERE

Please use the tear-off portion of this newsletter to renew your membership which will run to June 30, 1987. Contributions in excess of the basic \$5.00 fee will be credited towards the lighthouse restoration fund.

In addition to renewing your membership, you may wish to support the restoration effort directly by buying a piece of the lighthouse. The "Lighthouse For Sale" brochure enclosed can be used to buy pieces for friends as well, so please keep us in mind as birthdays, anniversaries and other gift-giving occasions arise during the summer.

----- TEAR OFF HERE -----

NAME _____ PHONE () _____

ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip Code

- Please renew my membership in the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation for the year ending June 30, 1987, in the following category:

_____ \$5 Individual _____ \$25 Business _____ \$250 Supporting
_____ \$10 Family _____ \$100 Contributing _____ \$500 Founding

- Please make reservations for _____ tickets at \$15.00 each for the CLAMBAKE AT ROSE ISLAND to be held Friday, July 11, with special Oldport launches leaving Fort Adams at 5:00 to take us to the beach at Rose Island. My check for a total of \$_____ is enclosed.

- I would like to volunteer my services and/or materials as follows: _____ Office
_____ Newsletter _____ Fundraising _____ Public Relations _____ Construction labor
Other _____

NOTE: Contributions to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purpose. Please mail your check to the Rose Island L/H Foundation, P.O. Box 1419 Newport, Rhode Island 02840. Thank You!

CLAMBAKE (Continued from front page)

meal. In case it rains, everything will be postponed to Saturday evening, same time, same place. In the event of a real deluge, we'll go to Sunday if necessary.

Remember to make your reservations by Monday, July 7 by calling either Curt Bunting at 846-4198 or Charlotte Johnson at 847-4454. There will be good food, good company and good singing around the campfire with Fud Benson on Fiddle and Jody and Donna Gibson with guitars and banjo, so grab your blanket and COME ON ALONG!!



THE LIGHT MUST BE KEPT BURNING

The exhibit on Rhode Island's lighthouses which opened last year at the Newport Harbor Center is back in town only until the end of June at the Museum of Yachting at Fort Adams. The exhibit offers a chance to get a good perspective on the history and current condition of lighthouses throughout the State.

If you missed the opening of this exhibit last year, now is your chance to catch it, as well as see the new Museum of Yachting which opened just last year and is making headlines regularly with its recent acquisition of SHAMROCK V.

"The Light Must Be Kept Burning" is scheduled to run only through June 27. A small admission is charged at the entrance of Fort Adams for parking and it is well worth it.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Through June 27 - "The Lights Must Be Kept Burning" exhibit at the Museum of Yachting, Fort Adams.

July 1 - Informal bring-your-own picnic on Rose Island. Watch the Tall Ships Parade of Sail. (No transportation provided.)

July 5 - 12 - Third annual Newport Harbor Appreciation Week sponsored by Save the Bay.

July 7 - Deadline for reservations for the clambake on Rose Island.

July 9 - "History of Rose Island" slide lecture by Charlotte Johnson. 7:30 pm at the Newport Public Library, Spring Street.

July 11 - Third annual Rose Island Clambake to benefit the lighthouse restoration project. Transportation provided from Fort Adams by Oldport launch beginning at 5:00 pm. Advance reservations needed at \$15.00 ea. Call Curt Bunting at 846-4198 or Charlotte Johnson at 847-4454 for reservations or information.



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